

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 20559 281427Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 SMS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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R 281424Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6089
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 20559

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: AF, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET-AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: KABUL 6840

1. AUGUST 24 IZVESTIYA CARRIED ITEM ANNOUNCING ARRIVAL
IN MOSCOW OF AFGHAN DELEGATION HEADED BY MINISTER FOR
INFORMATION AND CULTURE SHAFI "FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON
CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE USSR
AND DRA." AUGUST 26 PRAVDA CARRIED ARTICLE STATING:
--A "PROGRAM" OF CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE DRA WAS SIGNED ON
AUGUST 25. ALSO, AN AGREEMENT ON ARCHAEOLOGY WAS
EXTENDED:
--IN SIGNING FOR AFGHAN SIDE, SHAFI EMPHASIZED TO A
TASS CORRESPONDENT THAT THE DRA/USSR CULTURAL AND
SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION DOCUMENT OPENS A NEW STAGE
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 20559 281427Z

IN RELATIONS BETWEEN "THE TWO COUNTRIES, PEOPLES
AND PARTIES." HE MENTIONED THAT THE "PROGRAM"
ENVISIONS SOVIET ASSISTANCE.

2. AUGUST 24 IZVESTIYA CARRIED ARTICLE ATTRIBUTED
TO TASS CORRESPONDENT IN KABUL REPORTING "STATEMENT"
ON TARAKI-CHAired EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE

POLITBURO WHICH WAS READ OVER KABUL RADIO. ARTICLE
CITES STATEMENT AS SAYING:

--POLITBURO DISCUSSED "CONSPIRATORAL ACTIVITIES
AND INTRIGUES OF THE FORCES OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL
REACTION HOSTILE TO THE AFGHAN PEOPLE";

--"QADER AND SHAHPOOR'S COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY
GROUP PARTICIPATED IN THIS CRIMINAL ACTIVITY".
KISHTMAND AND RAFIE ALSO PARTICIPATED IN A PLOT.
"STRONGLY CONDEMNING THEM, THE POLITBURO
CONFIRMED THE DECISION ON THEIR ARREST";

--THE STATEMENT "EMPHASIZED" THAT THE AFGHAN PEOPLE,
UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY,
STAND STOUTLY IN DEFENSE OF "THE REVOLUTIONARY
ACHIEVEMENTS."

3. USDAO/MOSCOW 20411 REPORTS SWISS MILITARY ATTACHE
AS STATING AFGHAM MILITARY ATTACHE IN MOSCOW, MAJOR
AHMAD AZIZI, RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM KABUL ON AUGUST
18 NOTIFYING HIM TO RETURN TO AFGHANISTAN TO COMMAND
A PARACHUTE UNIT. MESSAGE SUGGESTS THAT AFGHAN
LEADERSHIP MAY BE PRESSED TO FIND AT HOME LOYAL YOUNG
OFFICERS WHO (IN REFTTEL'S WORDS) "COMMAND THE TANKS
AND PLANES" WHICH ARE CRUCIAL TO THE REGIME'S
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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 20559 281427Z

SURVIVABILITY. TOON

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